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Identical letters dated 17 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I am writing to inform you that, pursuant to an investigation of a Houthi ballistic missile that was targeted at Saudi Arabia on 5 April 2018, it was discovered that the coordinates of the launch point of the aforementioned missile, N 16 51 11 E 43 38 57, were situated only 226 metres from humanitarian objects on the non-targeting lists of the Arab coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen that belonged to the United Nations Children's Fund and a United Nations health facility.

The coalition condemns in the strongest terms the cowardly Houthi tactic of exploiting the presence of United Nations agencies in Yemen in order to use the offices and humanitarian workers of the United Nations as human shields to hide behind as they launch their indiscriminate terrorist ballistic missile attacks on densely populated civilian areas of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The lawless Houthi militias clearly aim to exploit the coalition's adherence to international humanitarian law through shielding their operations within internationally protected humanitarian offices. The coalition reiterates yet again the risks associated with maintaining United Nations offices in areas under Houthi militia control and so close to areas witnessing active combat and Houthi military activity. The coalition also reiterates the importance of reassessing the locations of the United Nations offices in Yemen, as well as the importance of relocating those offices to liberated areas under the legitimate Government's control. In addition, the coalition notes with great regret that the aforementioned United Nations agencies whose offices were exploited by the Houthis did not issue any condemnations of the recurrent Houthi ballistic missiles targeting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, even though those missiles were launched so close to their premises.

Furthermore, and with reference to the letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/335), the coalition reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of Houthi pressure tactics employed against United Nations staff members posted in Yemen. The letter detailed Houthi pressure tactics referenced in the letter from the United Nations Staff Union in Yemen to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, dated 5 March 2018. The tactics include limiting the United Nations international staff's stay in Sana'a to only three months, thus forcing United Nations agencies to rely fully on local staff, who are intimidated, threatened and detained by Houthis, who enforce their goal of controlling the work of the offices and specialized

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agencies of the United Nations in Yemen. In the Staff Union letter, reference is made to cases of national staff being subjected to kidnappings, arbitrary abduction and detention in Sana'a, Ibb and Hudaydah, all areas currently controlled by the Houthis. Reference is also made in the letter to many cases of staff members being threatened and intimidated by the Houthi militias.

The Staff Union's outright warning that the Houthis seek to control United Nations operations through direct intimidation and threats to national colleagues confirms the coalition's worst fears and necessitates immediate action in order to guarantee the safety and security of all humanitarian workers and to prevent the lawless Houthis from subverting the work of intergovernmental organizations in order to serve their illegitimate purposes.

In closing, the coalition reiterates the importance of commencing immediate consultations with the legitimate Government of Yemen regarding the relocation of all offices and agencies of the United Nations to liberated areas controlled by the legitimate Government of Yemen in order to ensure that the offices continue to serve all Yemeni citizens in all the governorates of the Republic of Yemen, in accordance with the independence, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations, while ensuring the safety and security of international and local United Nations staff working in Yemen.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled **Almanzlawiy**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.